

Reading

- 1 Read the text and match the headings A-H to the paragraphs 1-7. One heading is extra.

1		A Maintaining a high standard
2		B Better outside than in
3		C A true pioneer
4		D An airport to change your opinion
5		E Travel plans are carefully made
6		F Hugely appealing to locals
7		G Traveller satisfaction is paramount
		H No need to stay inside

(7x3=21)



1

If you hate airports, you've probably never been to Changi Airport in Singapore. Changi is the airport most often voted best in the world, and it's not hard to understand why.

2

Changi Airport has two free cinemas, free computer games, free music video and CD listening stations, and a free karaoke-style music studio. There's a roof-top swimming pool for people who fancy a swim, a two-storey indoor tropical butterfly garden to relax in, and a sports area to watch the latest sports news. There are also 500 free Internet stations; free foot- and leg- massage machines; and for transit passengers who have more than five

hours to spare before their next connecting flight, there are even free bus tours of Singapore city!

3

But that's not all. Changi Airport also has a fitness centre and spas where you can get massages and beauty treatments, including 'fish pedicures' where small fish eat the dead skin off your feet! Add to this, 290 tax-free shops, 110 food outlets and a four-storey-high indoor slide for kids and you'll see why Changi Airport is a popular destination even for Singaporeans too. Indeed, many go to Changi Airport at weekends just to shop, dine and enjoy the facilities!

4

Providing travellers with the best possible travel experience has definitely paid off for the airport. Since opening in 1981, Changi has won over 370 international 'best of' awards.

5

Many travellers now deliberately choose Singapore as their transit point just because of Changi. Others deliberately arrange their flights so they will have as long a stopover there as possible.

6

In addition to its amazing range of amenities, the level of service offered at Changi is second-to-none. At Changi Airport there are freshly-cut orchids in the bathrooms. There are even touch screens beside the bathroom sinks so travellers can send text messages to supervisors when toilet paper runs out!

7

Changi has changed the way travel is done and has set the benchmark for service excellence. It is unique because it offers regular travellers the kinds of perks and first-class luxury usually given only to first-class travellers. Little wonder then that Changi is one of only a handful of airports in the world where passengers are actually happy if their flight is delayed. After all, at what other airport can you go for an open-air swim and get your feet cleaned by fish?

Reading Comprehension

2

Read the text and for questions 1-5 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. ...

- 1 Where is Pico Cão Grande located? ...
 - A on the mainland of West Africa
 - B in the middle of a rainforest
 - C in the Alps
 - D in New Mexico
- 2 What does the writer say about the name of the peak? ...
 - A It does not match the peak's appearance.
 - B It matches the peak's appearance perfectly.
 - C It should be changed to a more suitable name.
 - D Nobody knows its meaning.
- 3 What was Pico Cão Grande formed from? ...
 - A liquid which was stuck under a volcano
 - B liquid which flowed out of a volcano
 - C the outer slopes of a volcano
 - D liquid that was stuck inside a volcano
- 4 Why are people not allowed to climb Shiprock? ...
 - A because it is the only volcanic plug in America
 - B because it is spiritually important for some people
 - C because it is the tallest volcanic plug in the world
 - D because it is too dangerous to climb
- 5 Why is it difficult to climb up Pico Cão Grande? ...
 - A because it is against the law to climb the peak
 - B because it is an extremely tall peak
 - C because climbing the peak requires equipment
 - D because the peak is difficult to find on a map

TOWER OF THE RAINFOREST

A Sometimes it's not the size of a mountain that makes it impressive, but its shape. An example of this is Pico Cão Grande on the small island of São Tomé off West Africa. At 663 m, it's only about a seventh of the height of the most famous peaks in the Alps – but it's nonetheless an unforgettable landmark.

B Pico Cão Grande forms a steep natural tower that resembles nothing else on the island. Although its name means Great Dog Peak, Pico Cão Grande is not shaped like a canine, or any animal. The Witch's Hat or the Giant's Finger might be better names for this dark mound that juts out from São Tomé's lush green rainforest landscape. Indeed, perhaps it's the contrast between the peak and its surroundings that make it such an amazing sight. It brings to mind a monument or religious structure – so much so that it's hard to believe it's the work of Mother Nature.

C So how was this peculiar peak formed? The answer lies in the island's volcanic natural history. In geological terms, Pico Cão Grande is a volcanic plug. That means that it's rock that, while still in liquid form, got stuck in the vent of a volcano. While the outer slopes of an extinct volcano erode away over time, the central section lasts much longer – and eventually stands alone. One of the best examples of a volcanic plug in the world is Shiprock in New Mexico, a jagged rock formation in an otherwise flat landscape. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the rock is sacred in the culture of the Native Americans, which means that climbing it is forbidden.

D There are no such regulations for Pico Cão Grande, perhaps because São Tomé has been inhabited only since the 1400s, when the Portuguese began to colonise it. However, if you want to climb Pico Cão Grande you will encounter

some practical problems. Even accessing the peak is difficult as it is totally surrounded by tough, dense vegetation. If you make it to the peak, you can't simply walk up it. It's so steep that ropes are necessary – and the rockface is very slippery due to the misty atmosphere. If you do make it to the top, avoiding the dangerous snakes on the way, don't expect a panoramic view – as the peak is likely to be shrouded in misty clouds!

Geography

3 Read the texts again and identify which person...

- 1** ☐ is concerned about the safety of young people? ...
- 2** ☐ is annoyed about the volume of traffic in the town? ...
- 3** ☐ is worried about the effect of the motorway on local trade? ...
- 4** ☐ has environmental concerns? ...
- 5** ☐ finds the proposal upsetting? ...



A Sandra Pane

Midland is a beautiful town and as a shop owner I am well aware of the serious problems that a motorway would cause to local businesses. We depend on the traffic that comes through the town to support our businesses. Taking the traffic away from the town would mean much less income for us. Where would that leave us then?

B Sam Walker

As headteacher of the local school, I feel the new motorway is a good idea. At the moment, the zebra crossing the students use to get to the other side of the main road is one of the busiest spots in town. So, if the volume of traffic is reduced, it will be safer for the children.

C Heather Wilkinson

I live quite close to the proposed new motorway. My only concern would be the noise pollution and that it would probably destroy the natural beauty of the area. But, if it benefits most of the community, then it should go ahead.

D Frank Burns

I commute to work every day and it doesn't matter whether I take the main route through town or a side street, I always hit traffic. It's a nightmare! The motorway will definitely make the journey easier.

4 Which of these sentences are true about water? Decide in pairs. Read and check.

CHECK



1 Water covers over 90% of the Earth's surface.

T

F

2 1.7% of water is underground.

T

F

3 7.1% of water is frozen.

T

F

4 Only 2.5% of the water on Earth is fresh.

T

F

5 30% of the people on Earth do not have clean water to drink.

T

F

6 In the next twelve years the majority of Earth's population will face water shortages.

T

F

7 If you leave a hose running, it can waste 23 gallons per minute.

T

F

8 We use over 200 litres of water to take a shower.

T

F

PRECIOUS WATER

As the old saying 'water, water, everywhere' suggests, there is water all over our planet. In fact, water covers a total of 70.9% of the Earth's surface. 95.5% of this is in the form of saltwater in the oceans, 1.7% is groundwater, 1.7% is frozen in glaciers and ice caps, and a mere 0.001% takes the form of clouds and precipitation. Despite the huge volumes of water present the Earth actually has a limited supply of fresh water. In fact, only 2.5% of the water on the planet is fresh and most of this is frozen in glacier at the poles or trapped deep underground, leaving less than 1% directly available for human consumption. Even if we are only using about 30% of this total global supply, 40% of the planet's inhabitants do not have access to safe drinking water and it is estimated that in the next twenty years as much as 66% of the world's population could be facing severe water shortage problems. Although it is true that water is everywhere, we need to remind ourselves just how precious it is and use it conscientiously and with care.